

Polk Briefing – 10/1/2020 – 10:00am

Public Health Report:

- Four Corners – Nebraska has had a bigger increase in the last 14 days, sitting at 45,000 total cases, with 478 deaths. Four Corners has had a large increase in case numbers. The last 7 days we have had 91 cases, yesterday was the all time high in one day with 20 new cases. In the last 7 days, York had 25 cases, Seward County had 35, Butler 19, Polk 12. We try to break it down by case per million per day as a guide to show transmission, and Polk County has 325 cases per million per day and we want that number at 50 or below. Because of high case counts, we are now utilizing contact tracers from the state. Originally we were getting by with our staff and local contact tracers, but it is too overwhelming that we have to use state tracers. We also have not had the staff to recover people, so our recoveries have been stagnant but we are going to work on that next week. We are seeing an increase of people in hospitals. We are helping community members in planning events if they have a capacity of 500 or more, helping to plan those safely. We are also seeing many cases touching schools, whether it be parents, kids, or teachers. LTCF are ramping up testing, they are having more test run through their facilities which also helps contribute negative results to the positivity rate. Our risk dial was at 1.88 last week, we are resetting it today, so stay tuned to see what that brings and we will be announcing that tomorrow. We still recommend avoiding crowds, wearing face coverings and staying healthy. Even though we are in phase 4, our rates of transmission are high and October will be a pivotal month for us.
- PPE – We received a large shipment yesterday and getting that ready to go today, everything is still going good in that regard, Polk County Health Department is picking up PPE and delivering today so thank you for that. Today is also my last day as ERC here at the health department and I just wanted to say thank you to everyone for being so welcoming and wonderful to work with. My next adventure is taking me to California for a while but I will be back in this area in the future.

Local Government Sector:

- Polk County –

Medical Sector

- Annie Jeffrey, Tonya – We received our UV disinfectant light now, so we will be ramping up cleaning especially in high risk areas. Working on getting policies in place for that. Our Health Fair is next Tuesday, we have precautions in place for that. We have seen an uptick in patients coming in so we are on high alert.

Business Sector

- No updates

Education Sector:

- Brian Tonniges – High Plains – As of last Monday we have a mask mandate, changing from recommendation. We have 230 kids K-12 so we can do a pretty good job of social distancing. We have had some parents test positive resulting in students having to quarantine but we have not had any students or staff members so far test positive. Schools around us like NE Christian and Fullerton temporarily close because of an outbreak, so we know it is around us.

Faith Community/Non-Profit Sector:

- Teri Lucas –No update, maintaining what we have already established. Masks are encourage and not required. Attendance has doubled since we changed that. No singing. Keeping 6 foot distance.

Questions/Comments:

- Doctor Collins – Where is this coming from, especially in the high age ranges of 20-30?
 - We're still seeing the 20's age group getting together on the weekends and inter-mingling. They are not masking or social distancing so we are seeing high transmission.
- What sites will people be able to get the flu vaccine?
 - We are still working on it, but we will have a list of places in our district that people can get the flu shot and put that on our website.
- Emily Triplett – What was the age of the person that died due to COVID?
 - The death was in his 70's with underlying health conditions.
- Darla Winslow – We are going to be at the health fair on Tuesday with flu shots. We only have a few high dose flu shots that we will bring to the fair but then we will not have any more after that, and don't think we have any left in our health district. The regular dose flu shot is fine as well. In October we will be in senior centers giving flu shots.
- Annie Jeffrey – Since we are a VFC site, do we need to fill out this paperwork and forward it to Four Corners?
 - Darla – yes. We are doing the same thing.

Next meeting – October 15th, 2020 @ 10am